

in pawn might be sold, but not if it was a female slave with chil-

dren.¹ To aid or conceal a fugitive slave was a capital offense.²

Many Chaldean contracts have been found in which the debtor

bound himself to work for the creditor until he should pay the

debt.³ It appears that the Babylonian slaves could form a

peculium and carry on business with it as a capital, paying their

owners a tax upon it.⁴

284. Slavery amongst Jews. The Jewish law had a provision

like that in the law of Hammurabi, except that the limit was six

years instead of three. A debtor was not to be a slave, but

to give service until the year of jubilee.⁵ In 2 Kings iv. i the widow

tells Elisha that her 'husband's creditors will come and take her

two sons to be bondmen. The creditors of some of the Jews

who returned from exile threatened to make them debtor slaves.

Nehemiah appealed to them not to do so.⁶ In Matt, xviii. 25

the man who could not pay was to be sold with his wife and

children. Kidnapping was punishable by death.⁷ In Job xxxi. 15

we find the ultimate philosophico-religious reason for repudiating

slavery: " Has not He who made me made him [the

slave] also
 in his mother's womb ?" The
 laws of the " Book of
 Covenants"
 begin with laws about slaves.⁸
 A male slave, with his wife, is
 to
 be freed in the seventh year,
 unless he prefers to remain a
 slave.
 A man may sell his daughter
 into slavery, i.e. to be a
 concubine.
 There was no difference in
 principle between a daughter
 given
 to wife and one sold to be a
 concubine. In Deut. xv. 12
 the
 female slave is also set free in
 the seventh year, and persons
 so
 freed are to be given gifts
 when they depart. The slaves
 were
 war captives, or bought
 persons, or criminals.⁹ The
 lot
 of
 slaves was not hard: The
 owners had not the power of
 life
 and
 death. The slave could acquire
 property.¹⁰ If the slave was an
 Israelite he was protected by
 especial restrictions on the
 master
 in behalf of fellow-
 countrymen.¹¹

¹ Win elder, *Gesetze Ham.*, 21. ²
 Laws 15 and 16.

⁸ Kohler und Peiser, *A us d. BabyL
 Rechtsleben*, IV, 47. Cf. I, i and II,
 6.

* *Ibid.*, I, i. 6 Nehem. v. 5.

⁸ Exod. xxi

⁵ Levit. xxv. 39. ⁷ Exod. xxi 16.

⁹ Exod. xxii. 2.

¹⁰ Levit. xxv. 49; Buhl, *Sac.
 Verh'dlt. d. Israel*, 35, 106.

¹¹ Deut. xv. 12-18; Exod. xxi.
 2 ff.; Levit. xxv. 39-46.